E51
.U4
No. 1

Archeological Reconnaissance Survey of the Bridger-Teton National Forest

by

George C. Frison

Report No. 1

USDA Forest Service

Intermountain Region

January 1975

LIBRARY COPY
ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

PREFACE TO THE SERIES

This report prepared by Dr. George C. Frison, of the University of Wyoming, is the product of a Memorandum of Agreement between the USDA Forest Service and the University to explore the archeological resource base of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. In keeping with Forest Service policy, this publication is the first in what is planned to be continuing series of reports of archeological investigations on National Forest lands in the Intermountain Region. Charged with management of a multiple resource base for the American people, dissemination of archeological information to that public is a vital step in proper management of the cultural resource. Archeological data left on storage shelves and in dusty boxes cannot be justified, neither does it represent proper management of a public resource. This series of reports is an attempt to make available to the public results of cultural resource studies conducted on the National Forests.

I extend my gratitude to Vernon O. Hamre, Regional Forester and Richard L. Harris, Director of Recreation, Lands, and Minerals, for their encouragement and support of an archeological program in the Intermountain Region. Their foresight in initiating and supporting this archeological program makes this series possible.

Evan I. DeBloois
Regional Archeologist

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Preface to the series	ii
List of Figures	iv
Introduction	1
Prehistoric Background	1
The Paleo-Indian Period	1
The Altithermal Period	3
The Archaic Period	4
The Late Prehistoric Period	5
Archeological Sites	6
The Lakes Area	10
Conclusions and Recommendations	12
Bibliography	20

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1.	Map of Archeological Sites	14
2.	Steatite Vessels From Half-Moon Lake	15
3.	Projectile Points	16
4.	Projectile Points	16
5.	Projectile Points and Tools	17
6.	Vegetable Grinding Tools	17
7.	Choppers	18
8.	Buried Firepit	18
9.	Wave-eroded Firepit	19

Archeological Reconnaissance Survey of the Bridger-Teton National Forest

This archeological survey of the Upper Green River was conducted from August 6 until August 16, 1974, with eight people in the field and one later trip on September 27-29 to attempt to resolve some problems had arisen as a result of the first effort. It was obvious that with the time and personnel allowed that it was impossible to walk the entire upper Green River area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. It was obvious also that only a small percentage of the area would produce evidence of prehistoric activity. It was decided to attempt to work out a sampling procedure by an intensive survey of selected small areas. Along with this, contact was made with as many local collectors and others familiar with the area to locate areas of concentration. Collections taken from outside the National Forest areas were observed since the prehistoric settlement patterns were obviously not limited by arbitrary boundaries presently recognized.

Survey was limited also by the almost total reliance on evidence visible at the surface. Due to the intense foot traffic and utilization of the area, any surface disturbance, however minimal, could only result in loss of buried levels considering the intensive collecting of artifacts that is presently occurring. A good share of the archeological evidence that could be seen at the surface is already lost due to the intensive collecting and this lack of material makes valid interpretations difficult.

Two four wheel drive vehicles and three trail machines were used to speed the coverage outside the wilderness areas where travel was not limited to foot trips and also to speed access to the edge of the wilderness areas.

General Background of Prehistoric Occupation

The Paleo-Indian Period

The state of present knowledge concerning the prehistory of Wyoming in particular and the Plains-Plateau, Basin and Range area of North America in general, is far from complete. Parts of the chronology remain incomplete with some cultural horizons, known only from projectile point typologies, still not securely dated or placed within limits in the overall chronology. It is imperative that the chronology be securely defined before any great advances in cultural systematics can be realized.

Clovis and Folsom can be relatively easily defined if a sample of projectile points is present. In over a dozen large collections of materials gathered from the Bridger-Teton National Forest and from adjacent areas, neither Folsom or Clovis are represented. Claims

were made of at least one Folsom projectile point being found in the past along the Green River between the National Forest boundary and the lower Green River Lake. There is no confirmation of this, however, since neither the projectile point in question nor the collector could be located. The evidence at this point does not argue for the presence of the Llano or fluted point cultural complexes in the area although this could be changed at any time. The presence of a single Folsom projectile point found on the Gros Ventre River north and east of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is suggestive but cannot be accepted as proof that Folsom was in the general area since the exact circumstances of the find are not known. Unless more definitive evidence is found, it is not yet possible to claim occupation of the Upper Green River area by the Llano or fluted point cultural groups.

There is enough surface evidence of Plano material to suggest that they were present in the area. All large surface collections studied consistently demonstrated about a 1.5 to 2.0 percent total of what could be considered Paleo-Indian material and divided about equally between the Cody Complex and as yet rather indistinct projectile point styles that have been called Agate Basin by Sharrock (1966) and Agate Basin-like by Husted (1969). They were found in context by Sharrock and a bone collagen date of 7745 B.C. ± 195 years (GX0354) may be a general indicator of time. Similar but undated materials have been found in quantity at Jackson Lake and were collected before the lake level was raised. Some of the materials from Jackson Lake are of obsidian and these have been obtained for purposes of eventually attempting obsidian hydration dates and thereby gaining some indication of the dates of the various complexes as well as testing the validity of the dating method. The Jackson Lake materials contain artifacts that are typologically of the Cody Complex and should date somewhere around 6400 to 6800 B.C. (Irwin-Williams et. al., 1973) as suggested by radiocarbon dates from the Hell Gap site and others on the Plains. The other projectile point specimens resemble vaguely those of the Agate Basin complex. Similar appearing materials from Medicine Lodge Creek (Frison N.D.a)and Big Horn Canyon (Husted 1969) date to around 6500 B.C. The problem is that the term "Agate Basin like" has been used to describe all materials that in outline form resemble Agate Basin. Apparently as more evidence is gathered, not all similar forms belong to the Agate Basin Complex nor do they belong to the same time period. Another projectile point form that appears with regularity in collections taken from two of the large lakes (Boulder Lake and Willow Lake) is not yet securely dated for the Green River area but is found by Sharrock (1966) in southeast Wyoming. Within the past year such points have been found in good archeological context at a site near Dubois, Wyoming, but no Carbon-14 dates are available (Frison N.D.c). This is significant since the site is close to the Bridger-Teton National Forest area and will figure strongly in the prehistoric interpretations for the latter area. Similar artifact material appeared at Medicine Lodge Creek dated at about 6300 B.C. (Frison N.D.a). We can only assume that this group is contemporaneous with the terminal Paleo-Indian groups and further knowledge must await systematic archeological investigations.

Since the Plano materials observed in the private collections from the Upper Green River area, especially from around Willow Lake, Boulder Lake, and New Fork Lakes appears typologically similar to dated materials, it appears likely that there was a general occupation of Plano peoples over the Bridger-Teton National Forest areas although no actual sites with good archeological contexts are known. The areas around the major lakes, especially lower New Fork, Willow Lake, and Boulder Lake, have produced most of the Plano material and this may be where most of the occupation was centered. We were unable to locate any Plano materials in our survey with one possible exception, but three private collections did have Plano material collected away from the lake areas. There have been, however, considerable Plano materials collected in other areas, especially along the east side of the Green River west of the town of Pinedale but not on the National Forest.

Any discussion of the Plano occupation of the area should contain some mention of the Finley Site (Moss et al., 1951) just east of Eden, Wyoming. This site is the type site for the Eden materials which is part of the Cody Complex. The site is a bison kill of an extinct form, Bison bison antiquus, and provides in situ evidence of the only bison hunting Paleo-Indian cultures in the general area of the Upper Green River Basin. It is only reasonable to postulate that cultural groups of the Cody Complex included the areas toward the headwaters of the Green River in their yearly round of economic activities also.

From our efforts in the field and in studying private collections, it would appear that there was no intensive Paleo-Indian occupation of the Bridger-Teton National Forest area. It does appear that some late Plano groups were utilizing the area, probably on a seasonal basis but the true nature of this use must await the discovery of sites in acceptable archeological context.

The Altithermal Period

We are not at all knowledgeable at the present time concerning the cultural sequence of the Altithermal Period or from about 5000 B.C. to about 3000 B.C. We have not yet studied the effects of the Altithermal in the Green River Basin although a recent geological study of the Killpecker Dune area north of Rock Springs recognizes the existence of the period (Ahlbrandt 1973).

The apparent effect of the Altithermal Period was to restrict prehistoric occupation as a result of increased aridity and a concommitant loss of the primitive economic food base. The best evidence to date of Altithermal occupations in Wyoming comes from the Big Horn Basin (Wedel et. al., 1968, Frison N.D.a) and from northeastern Wyoming (Frison, N.D.b). More recently, in situ evidence of an Altithermal occupation appeared near Dubois, Wyoming, which is close to the Upper Green River area (Frison N.D.c).

The best evidence for the Early Altithermal Period occupations is a rather distinctive projectile form referred to here as "early side-notched." It is similar in form to projectile points of the Late

Prehistoric Period but there are differences in the technological system of production and also differences in form that can be detected if large enough samples are available for observation. It should be mentioned also that toward the end of the Altithermal there are materials that resemble Late Archaic materials or those dating from about 500 B.C. to about A.D. 500. Dated evidence for this late Altithermal Period material was found in Big Horn Canyon (Husted 1969) and in stratigraphic but undated contexts at the Kobold Site in southern Montana (Frison 1970) and at the Medicine Lodge Creek Site (Frison N.D.a). There is no presently known method by which this material can be identified in surface collections.

In the large private collections gathered from the shores of the before-mentioned large lakes, the percentage of early side-notched or presumed Altithermal projectile points runs just slightly more than the Paleo-Indian projectile points or just over two percent. During our survey we did find one of these projectile points (Fig. 4e) on the present shore line of Boulder Lake. The evidence obtained from all sources suggests some human occupation of the area during the Altithermal Period but there are no known sites in the Bridger-Teton National Forest area to support this. Sites will undoubtedly appear as the area becomes better known archeologically. The site near Dubois (Frison N.D.c) tends to support this idea.

The Early and Late Middle Period or Archaic Period

Following the Altithermal Period around 3000 B.C. to 2500 B.C. conditions improved somewhat. Increased precipitation resulted in more favorable floral conditions and the fauna returned. The modern bison (Bison bison bison) replaced the extinct forms although the exact mechanisms of change, genetic and otherwise, are not yet fully understood. Human occupation was now intensified and the economic orientation was that of broad spectrum hunting and gathering with good evidence of utilization of both vegetable and animal resources.

Several diagnostic items identify these occupations. A feature most common is some kind of food preparation pit, usually basin-shaped, up to two feet or slightly more in diameter and as much as a foot in depth. These contain fire-fractured stone and other evidence of fire and it is presumed to represent a means of food preparation. Evidently the stones were heated and the food was then placed on the hot stones and covered over to act as an oven. Distinctive food-grinding tools including manos and flat grinding slabs are common and these are believed to represent evidence of the use of vegetable foods. Animal bones are quite common in campsites and include mainly bison with lesser quantities of antelope, deer, and many smaller mammals.

Projectile points of the period are also diagnostic. Earliest is both a lanceolate and stemmed form with several variations (Mulloy 1954). About 500 B.C. the projectile points changed to a number of corner-notched forms but the grinding materials continue with little or no change (Mulloy 1958).

The great bulk of materials observed in private collections from the area is from the Archaic Period and the same is true of materials found during the survey. Firepits are common around the peripheries of the major lakes and along the Green River. The real concentration of fire pit areas, however, is along both sides of the Green River but off the Bridger-Teton National Forest and especially in the area west of Pinedale, Wyoming. It is felt that when the archeology of this particular area has been systematically investigated, it will shed considerable light on the prehistoric occupation of the areas within the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The Late Prehistoric Period

At about A.D. 500, give or take a few hundred years, a major technological change occurred with the introduction of the bow and arrow in contrasted to the earlier throwing stick and dart. This can be detected in the archeological record by a change in projectile point types from the relatively large corner-notched styles of the Late Archaic to the smaller corner-notched and side-notched styles (late side-notched) of the Late Prehistoric Period.

A good record of this change is known from along the Green River close to Big Piney, Wyoming. This is in the form of a bison corral and associated camp site that provided a good deal of evidence for the communal procurement of bison in the early part of the Late Prehistoric Period (Frison 1973). Similar materials appeared in private collections and were also found during the survey of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Ceramics appeared also at the Big Piney buffalo kill site but not in the National Forest Survey. The problems of these ceramics are discussed in the report on the Big Piney site (Frison 1973) and need not be repeated here.

During the Late Prehistoric Period, the Shoshoneans occupied the area and there is abundant evidence for this. Near the town of Eden, an extensive campsite was excavated which is believed to have been associated with an antelope trap (Frison 1971). It is almost protohistoric in date and ceramics are common but of different type than that found at the Big Piney bison kill site. These ceramics appear all over the Green River Basin in Wyoming, and although very few were recorded from the Bridger-Teton National Forest, local collectors have found these ceramics in some quantity immediately adjacent to the National Forest. The quality of the ceramics is poor and they deteriorate rapidly when exposed at the surface. This added to the fact that they are difficult to see and distinguish from the stone materials at the surface may explain the present scarcity of ceramics on the National Forest. With the discovery of buried campsites, more will undoubtedly appear *in situ*.

Along with the ceramics mentioned above, carved stone bowls of the same general shape are common. These were carved from steatite found at various locations. There are steatite quarries between

the Pipestone Lakes (Site 48 SU 336) and a number of unfinished pieces have been collected by various persons throughout the years. Other exposures of this material are probably present in the Bridger-Teton National Forest but the ones at Pipestone Lakes were the only ones recorded in the survey.

There are a number of the carved stone bowls that have been found in the Bridger-Teton National Forest area. One very small bowl about 3½ inches high and 3 inches in diameter was located in a collection in Rock Springs, Wyoming. One collection at Pinedale contained a broken stone bowl collected along the shores of Boulder Lake. One was reported to have been found at a rock slide near Faler Lake but this particular specimen could not be located.

A collection in Casper, Wyoming, contains two unusual specimens that were collected a number of years ago on the northeast shore of Half Moon Lake. Both are unquestionably the best technologically of these stone bowls every viewed by the writer. One specimen is 8 3/4 inches high and 8 5/16 inches in outside diameter at the top and gradually tapers to a flanged base 5 3/8 inches in diameter (Fig. 2a). The rim has a slight bulge and the thickness of the vessel varies from 3/16 inches to 7/16 inches. It is symmetrical, nearly complete and was recovered in over 40 pieces. The other specimen is similar but rather asymmetrical and has a raised rib about 1 inch wide and about 1 7/8 inches below the rim (Fig. 2b). The base of the latter vessel was not recovered nor was it complete enough to determine exact diameter.

During the survey, two broken pieces of a steatite vessel were found at the inlet of Boulder Lake but not in the context of a site. There is no assurance that the steatite used in vessels recovered in the Bridger-Teton area came from steatite sources in the Wind River mountains since there are sources for this material in the Teton Mountain area as well. For a discussion of both stone and pottery vessels in this area see Wedel 1954.

The above is a general sequence of cultures and cultural evidence that has been recovered in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. With this as a background, an enumeration of the sites and the site evidence can be more meaningfully placed. Sites in the Upper Green River and Green River Lakes area will be discussed first (see Map Fig. 1).

Archeological Sites

Site (48 SU 303) - This site is manifest by a number of flakes representing stone implement manufacture at the outlet of the lower Green River Lake. Evidence is on both sides of the outlet and for a distance of about 100 yards up the east shore of the lake on the main terrace above the lake. Two fires were noted and what appears to be two nearly-buried stone circles. The cultural level is on the average about 3-4

inches below present ground level. Artifact materials include a single projectile point (Fig. 3c) and an end scraper (Fig. 5b). The evidence suggests intensive surface collecting in the area which probably explains the paucity of artifact material. Limited excavations could yield some diagnostic materials.

Site (48 SU 304) - This is an extremely problematical site and may be paleontological and not archeological. Nearly ½ mile of the eastern shoreline of the lower Green River Lake is extremely boggy and these bog deposits contain considerable quantities of Bison bison bones. It may possibly have been some sort of Late Prehistoric bison procurement situation or it may merely represent winter kills of animals stranded there. Solution of the problem would require extensive investigations.

Site (48 SU 305) - This site is on a terrace about 150 feet west of Clear Creek toward the upper end of the lower Green River Lake. A mano stone (Fig. 6b) was noticed eroding out of a cultural level about 6 inches below present ground surface. Excavation of this site could be productive since the recovered materials would be in good context.

Site (48 SU 306) - Is on the east bank of Clear Creek on the same terrace as Site No. 48 SU 305. Large quantities of flaking materials are present on the surface and in two locations in a recently cut bank of Clear Creek. This site might be profitably excavated, but intense surface collecting did not produce any diagnostic material.

Site (48 SU 307 and 48 SU 308) - These are along the east bank of the river between the lower and upper Green River Lakes. They are located about 7 - 10 feet above the river and are buried an inch or so with recent deposits. Fire pits are visible in the cut bank of the stream. Excavation could yield diagnostic material but again the area has been intensively surface collected.

Site (48 SU 309) - Extends for several hundred feet around the lower end of the eastern side of the upper Green River Lake and consists of an intensive area of flaked stone a few inches below the surface in places. The material was badly fire fractured possibly due to a forest fire in the past. The value of excavation in the site is questionable.

Site (48 SU 310) - Consists of a few Bison bison bones and flakes along an old stream meander on the south side of the lower Green River Lake below the inlet. Excavation would probably not be recommended.

Areas that appeared favorable for occupation above the Green River Lakes were surveyed with no success. Apparently the only observable prehistoric occupation was in favorable locations along the shores of the lake.

Some site evidence appeared along the Green River below the Green River Lakes. Nearly all of the evidence is in the form of fire pits exposed either in arroyo or road cuts or in deflated areas.

Sites (48 SU 311, 48 SU 313, 4 SU 314, 48 SU 315, 48 SU 316, 48 SU 317, 48 SU 318, 48 SU 319) - are manifested by fire pits, stone flaking materials and smaller amounts of grinding tools consisting of mano stones and broken grinding slabs. Diagnostic artifacts that might have given a closer idea of actual dates were extremely rare although the ones that were found (Fig. 3g, k) indicate a Late Middle Prehistoric or Late Archaic Period. This is further strengthened by the food grinding materials recovered. Further verification was found in the form of a large Late Archaic projectile point found on the surface near Site 48 SU 311 and another a few hundred yards further south along the Green River. These specimens were in the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Dew of Pinedale, Wyoring. Site 48 SU 316 is manifest by a particularly good group of fire pits that make it a strong candidate for systeratic excavation if the occassion arises. A fire pit (Fig. 8) at site 48 SU 313 yielded a good charcoal sample which has been submitted for dating. This site, as can be seen from figure 8, demonstrates why it is difficult to locate sites unless the surface of the ground is disturbed or erosion had occurred since most sites are under a few inches of overburden.

Site 48 SU 317 appears very much like the other fire pit sites in the area but one pottery sherd was found on the site. This one body sherd is sufficient to identify as to any cultural relationships. It may be unrelated to the fire pits but the one sherd is enough to indicate that further investigation would be warranted since ceramics are poorly known for the area.

Site 48 SU 312 along the shore of Dollar Lake is one of some complexity. Manifested by flakes appearing in an eroded game trail, about 6 inches below present ground surface a small test was made since it is in an area off the general path of visitors. The flaking materials were somewhat exotic and the known source is over 100 miles to the south in the Green River Basin.

Apparently the site had been burned recently by a forest or brush fire. The results were fire-fracturing of all the stone materials and charring of the bone. It also eliminated the possibility of obtaining a radio-carbon date. Once more a lack of diagnostic materials make positive identification impossible but the technological aspects of the stone assemblage suggest a possible early period assemblage (Fig. 5e, h). This could likely be resolved by further excavation.

The area by the Warm Springs along the Green River appears to be an actual Site (48 SU 320) although the area has been so intensively surface hunted that only an occasional flake remains. However, recent road improvement has truncated a fire pit or food preparation pit which strongly suggests it might yield more definitive evidence if test excavations were made.

We were told of pottery having been recovered just inside the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary close to the confluence of Red Creek and the Green River. We were unable to find any of the pottery or evidence of a site in this area nor were we able to locate anyone who had recovered any of it.

Archeological materials in the higher more inaccessible areas were more difficult to locate and even more difficult to define, consisting only of scattered flaking and/or an occasional projectile point. Unfortunately the projectile points had already been picked up by collectors but these were made available. An enumeration of these possible sites are as follows:

Site (48 SU 321) - Recognized only by a concentration of flakes along an upper drainage of Tourist Creek. Appears to be a chipping station with more than the usual amount of flakes.

Site (48 SU 322) - Flake concentration just north of Faler Lake. No diagnostic materials. A steatite bowl was also found by a local collector in a rock slide near Faler Lake.

Site (48 SU 323) - Flake concentration and a Late Archaic or Late Middle Period projectile point at the outlet of Crescent Lake. Point found by a collector in Pinedale, Wyoming.

Occasional flakes are common around Mosquito Lake but nothing that could be called a site was found.

Site (48 SU 324) - A quarry site for flaking materials is known to exist on Slide Lake Creek east of the Green River Lakes but, although material from the quarry was seen, the exact location of the quarry was not found. The material observed appeared to be representative of some that was common to a number of the sites around the Green River Lakes and the bend of the Upper Green River. This quarry site was recorded by Dr. David Love, U.S. Geological Survey Geologist in Jackson who knew the approximate location and had samples from the quarry but could not give a precise location and we were unable to find the site in the time available.

Site (48 SU 325) - This is a site on Bacon Ridge reported to consist of a number of stone circles. The informant was unable to give an exact map location and although pictures of some of the circles were shown to the writer, the exact location was not found although the better part of a day was spent looking for it. On the basis of the evidence given the writer from these different informants, the site does exist and one of these informants has agreed to act as a guide to the site next summer since snow in the area cancelled the efforts for 1974. It is important to determine the age of these stone circles if possible.

Another site that may be of considerable importance was reported near the head of Rock Creek at Sawtooth Mountain. A heavy flake concentration was reported and Late Middle Period projectile points were found near a spring. The writer saw the projectile points but the informant could not or would not give a precise map location. This is another site that the writer hopes to be able to locate next year but at this point we do not feel that it can be given a site number since the location cannot be pinned within close enough limits.

We felt that with the sites and site materials that were found and reported to us we had a valid representative sample from the more remote areas of both the wilderness and other areas of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. A more intensive survey would have been extremely time consuming and, although more actual sites might have been found, it would have added but very little to the final interpretations.

The Lakes Area

A good share of the survey time was spent at the major lakes including New Fork Lakes, Willow Lake, Fremont Lake, Half Moon Lake, and Boulder Lake. It was hoped that significant quantities of diagnostic materials could be gathered in these areas but this was only partially realized. Some diagnostic materials were recovered but not in any quantity. This is probably the result of intense amateur collecting.

Sites (48 SU 326 and 48 SU 327) - These consist of a number of fire hearths, stone flaking materials, stone tools, and mammal bone that is being exposed by wave action near the outlet and along the west side of the lower New Fork Lake. These are present for several hundred yards and probably represent only the periphery of much larger sites that were present before the lake level was raised. 48 SU 327 produced two projectile points diagnostic of the Late Middle Prehistoric Period (Fig. 3e) and this fits well with the other evidence from the area.

Site (48 SU 328) - Is another Late Middle or Late Archaic Site that is presently being eroded by wave action. The action is probably being accelerated by the loss of trees through beaver activity. This site could be rather large and had the appearance of not being intensely collected, probably due to the protective cover of dead trees cut by beaver. Several tools (Fig. 5a, d, f, g) and grinding stones were recovered (Fig. 6a).

Site (48 SU 329) - Was located at the head of the upper New Fork Lake on the north side of the inlet. One late Archaic projectile point (Fig. 3b) was found along with several flakes and bison bone fragments eroding out of an exposed perpendicular bank. Considerable effort was spent attempting to locate evidence of sites in areas peripheral to the lake but without success. Three projectile points from the New Fork Lakes were observed in local collections.

Willow Lake was the most productive of all the areas visited. Site 48 SU 330 is designated so as to include all of the western end of the lake on both sides of the outlet for a distance of at least a mile. This is another situation where the lake waters have cut into the site and it is a favorite ground for artifact collectors. We were able to get a small representative sample of materials dating from the Late Archaic back to Late Paleo-Indian (Fig. 3d, h-j, l; Fig. 4a-c, e). This correlates well with what was observed in collections taken from the area. Large numbers of fire pits and food preparation pits are exposed along the beach (Fig. 9) by wave action and raising and lowering of the water level.

Fremont Lake was not a productive area. One collection was observed that had been gathered near the outlet a number of years ago. The projectile point style suggests a late occupation. One projectile point of the same type (Fig. 3f) was found there during the survey.

Half Moon Lake produced only one site (48 SU 331) toward the eastern end. Several fire pits and flakes were observed on a flat area along the shore but no diagnostic materials were found. It seems likely that the main prehistoric occupation at Half Moon Lake was on the extreme western end which is private land and was not accessible. The two steatite vessels from Half Moon Lake have already been mentioned.

Boulder Lake has produced most of the known archeological materials from the entire area. Site 48 SU 332 is close to the inlet on the north side of the stream and produced a large knife (Fig. 5c), a projectile point (Fig. 4b), three sherds of a carved steatite vessel, several tools and numerous flakes. Site 48 SU 333 is on the south side of the inlet and consists of fires pits, flakes, and stone tools. Site 48 SU 334 is along the south shore of the lake and is manifest by flakes, a projectile point (Fig.3a), a mano stone (Fig. 6c), and a large grinding slab or milling stone. Site 48 SU 305 produced a quantity of debitage and some artifact material but is outside the National Forest.

To round out the survey and to get a more complete picture of archeological potential of the area toward the south end of the Bridger-Teton National Forest, two days of intensive survey were spent in the Boulder Creek-Scab Lake-Silver Creek areas. The results were totally negative although some scattered archeological materials were found off the National Forest area. We were forced to conclude that the areas of lower elevations and the areas around the major lakes already mentioned were the places where prehistoric man spent most of his time and that the other areas were not too attractive. One day was spent also in the area along the newly constructed road between Pinedale and Elkhart Park. It was felt that the recently exposed road cuts would expose some archeological materials but such was not the case. We were totally negative in regard to any archeological materials in this area although some open park areas were felt to present good possibilities for prehistoric use.

Another archeological manifestation that should be mentioned is a number of crude choppers or some other functional tool type that appeared in small numbers along the Green River, the shores of the large lakes (Boulder Lake, Willow Lake, and New Fork Lakes) and in large numbers outside the Bridger-Teton National Forest especially along the Green River west of Pinedale. These are river cobbles, usually quartzite with a few percussion flakes to form a working edge (Fig. 7). They probably cover a time period dating from the Post-Altithermal until the Proto-Historic.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This survey by no means covered all of the area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest but we do feel that a good sample was obtained and one from which valid interpretations can be made. First and foremost, it is obvious that the prehistory of the National Forest area must be determined from a study of the total area of exploitation utilized by the prehistoric groups. The National Forest areas represent only a part of the total number of microenvironments that made up the macro-environment within which they conducted their yearly round of activities. The archeology of the whole area is so poorly known at this time that only broad generalizations can be made. In looking at this broad general picture, however, some statements can be made.

1. The prehistoric chronology of the Bridger-Teton National Forest and adjacent areas follows quite closely that known for the general area of the Northwestern Plains and the adjacent fringing intermontane basin areas with the possible exception of the Llano or fluted point cultural groups. It may be, however, that the latter simply have not yet been found.

2. The general cultural content and economic orientation of these prehistoric groups is typical of hunters and gatherers practicing a shifting nomadism within defined territories throughout the year.

3. Favored areas included the lower valley of the Green River and to some extent the smaller streams and the shores of the larger lakes. The great bulk of the National Forest area felt little use.

4. Contact with the Teton and Yellowstone Park areas is suggested by the presence of obsidian in just about every debitage and artifact assemblage.

5. Further knowledge of the archeology of the area will require excavation of selected sites both on and off the National Forest.

6. Along with the preceeding statement, there are some things archeologically about which we are not yet knowledgeable. For example, a number of projectile points that have been found in the Bridger-Teton National Forest do not fit in any typology known for the area. One was found on Half Moon Mountain (Fig. 4d) and another was found on the divide along Pinon Ridge on the extreme north end of the area. Similar projectile points appear in collections from Boulder, Willow, and Half Moon Lakes. We need to know more about these, where they fit chronologically and whether they are some variant of a known group or represent an influence or population movement from outside.

With regard to immediate recommendations, we saw little that we could regard as immediately endangered sites on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The damage to archeological sites has already been done on the major lakes whose levels have already been raised. If any of these lakes are to have the water levels raised in the future, they should be investigated first to determine if this will destroy additional archeological resources.

Another area that should be investigated is that of the steatite quarries between the Pipestone Lakes. Continued collecting of the materials here will make final evaluation more difficult if it is not already too late.

Looking at the entire archeological picture, it does not appear that at this time any intensive program of excavation should be initiated in the Bridger-Teton area unless specific sites are endangered. It is recommended that all areas of surface disturbance such as roads, mines, and timber sales should be adequately surveyed for archeological materials both before and after such disturbances occur.

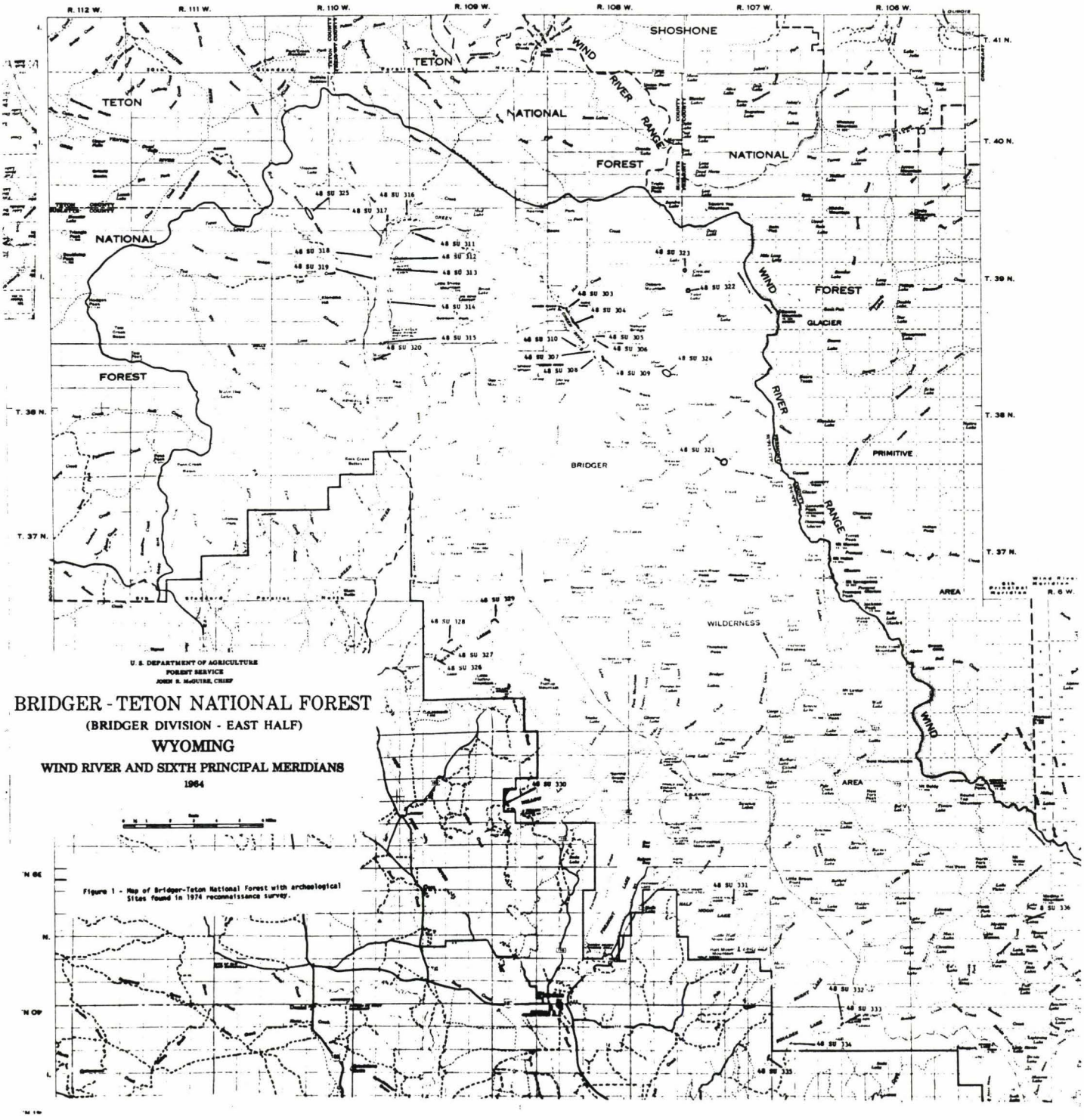

Figure 1 - Map of Bridger-Teton National Forest with archeological sites found in 1974 reconnaissance survey.

Fig. 1. Map of archeological sites on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

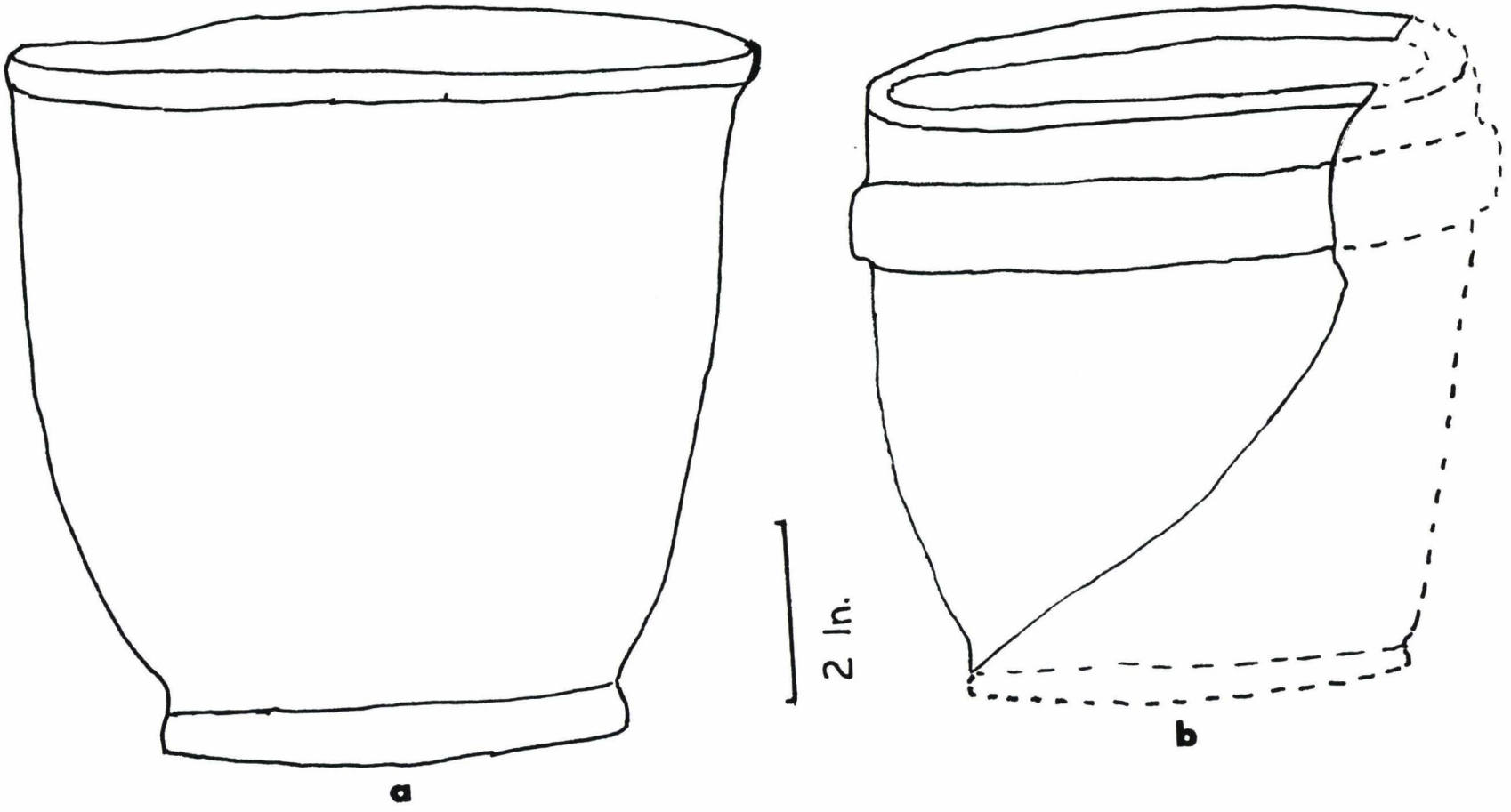

Figure 2 - Steatite vessels recovered at Half-Moon Lake.

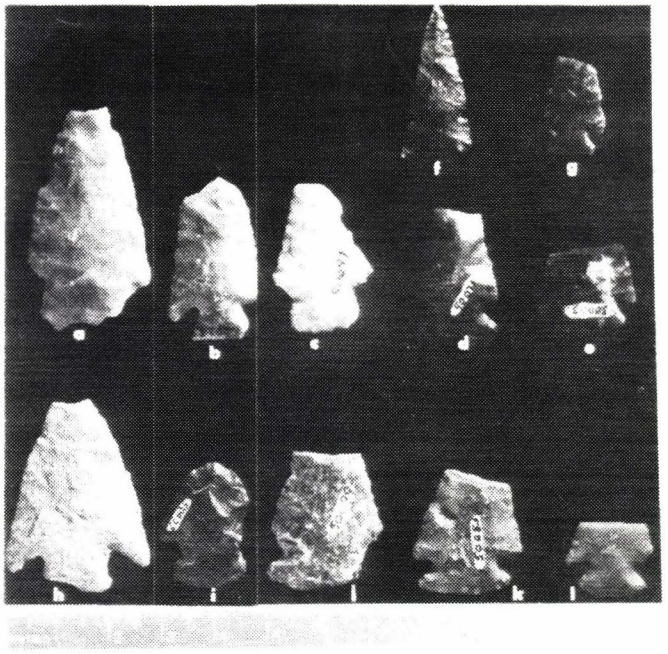

Fig. 3. Projectile points recovered during the 1974 survey.

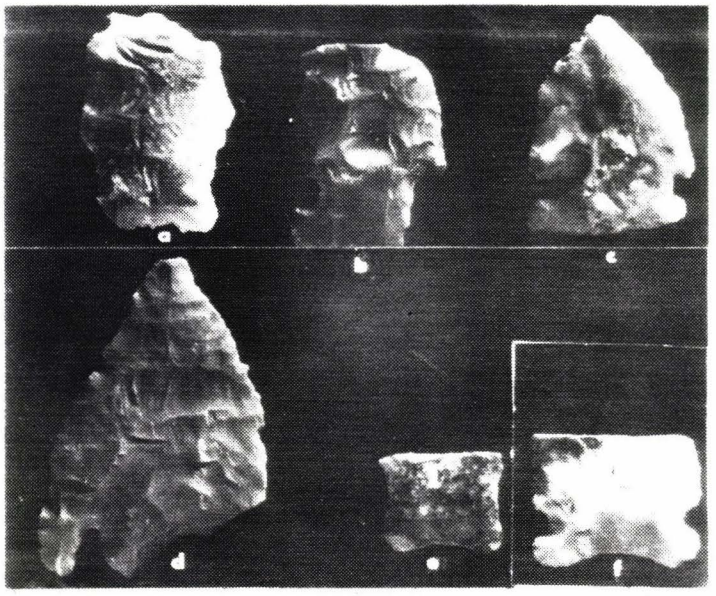

Fig. 4. Projectile points recovered during the 1974 survey.

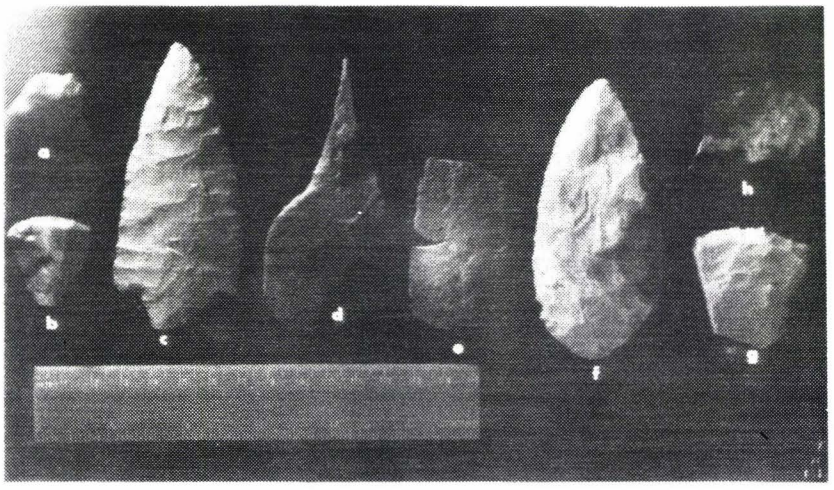

Fig. 5. Projectile points and tools recovered during the 1974 survey.

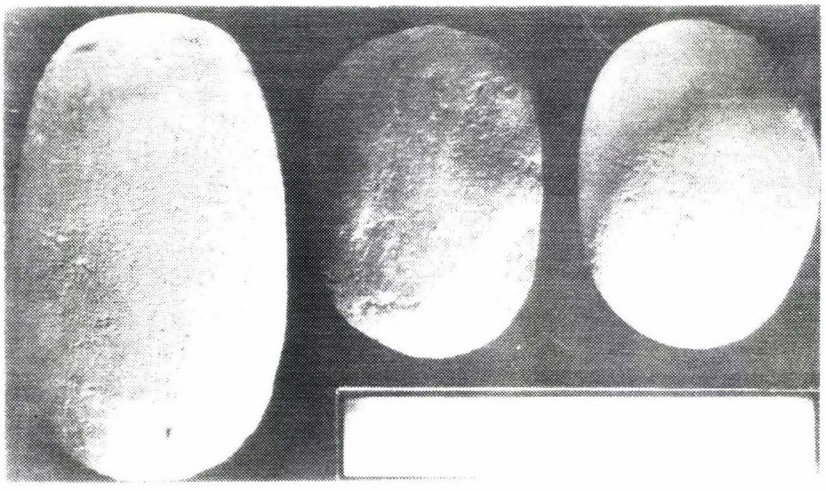

Fig. 6. Vegetable grinding tools recovered during the 1974 survey.

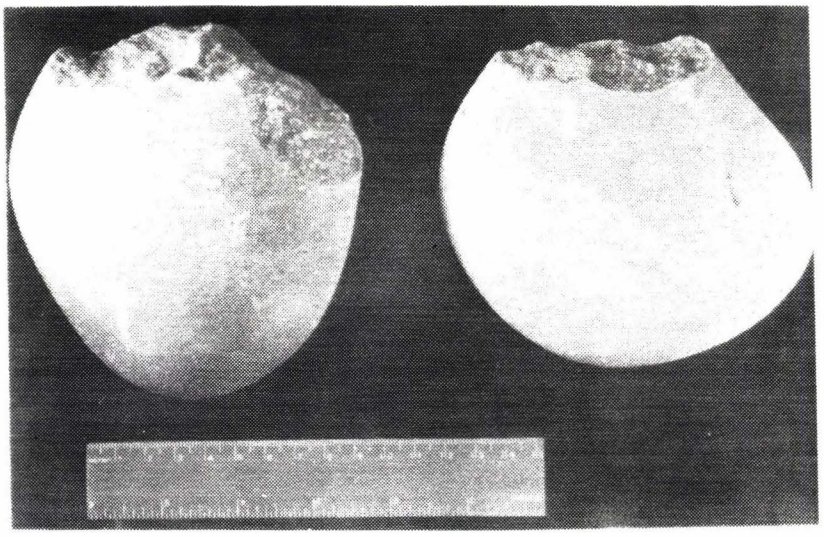

Fig. 7. Stone choppers recovered during the 1974 survey.

Fig. 8. Buried firepit in a road-cut along the Green River, Bridger-Teton National Forest.

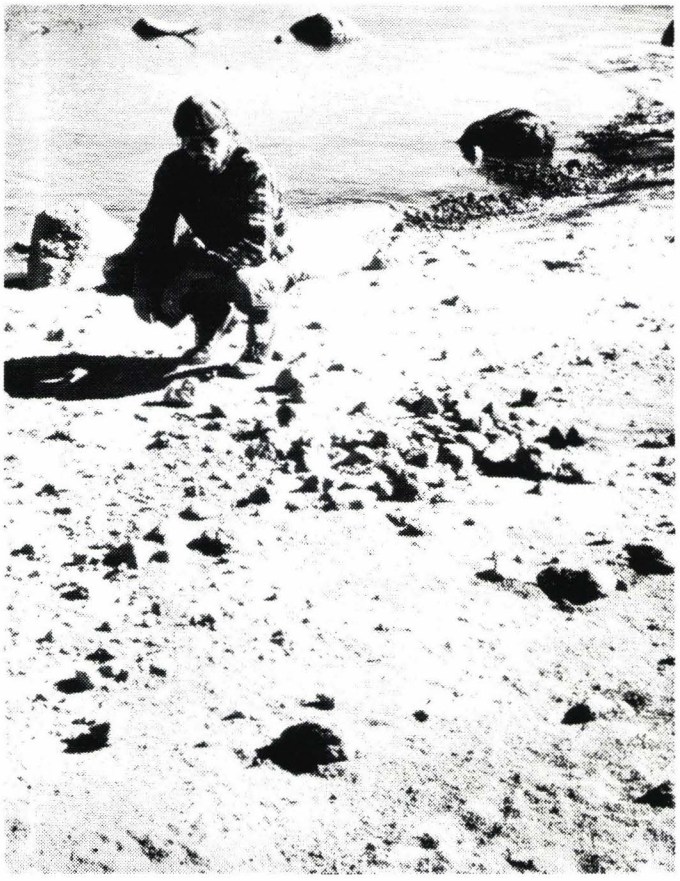

Fig. 9. Wave-eroded firepit on the shore of Willow Lake, Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Bibliography

Ahlbrandt, Thomas S.
1973 Sand Dunes Geomorphology and Geology, Killpecker Creek Area, Northern Sweetwater County, Wyoming. PH.D. Dissertation, University of Wyoming, Department of Geology, Laramie.

Frison, George C.
1970 The Kobold Site 24 BH 406: A Post Altithermal Record of Buffalo-Jumping for the Northwestern Plains, Plains Anthropologist 16: 1-35.

1971 Shoshonean Antelope Procurement in the Upper Green River Basin, Wyoming, Plains Anthropologist, 16: 258-283.

1973 The Wardell Buffalo Trap 48 SU 301: Communal Procurement in the Upper Green River Basin, Wyoming. University of Michigan Anthropological Papers No. 48.

N.D.a The Medicine Lodge Creek Site in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming.

N.D.b The Hawken Site: Altithermal Period Bison Procurement in the Wyoming Black Hills.

N.D.c The Lookenbill Site: High Altitude Paleo-Indian Evidence in the Absaroka Mountains of Wyoming.

Husted, Wilfred M.
1969 Bighorn Canyon Archeology. Smithsonian Institution River Basin Survey Publication No. 12.

Irwin-Williams, Cynthia, Henry Irwin, George Agogino, and C. Vance Haynes
1973 Hell Gap: Paleo-Indian Occupation on the High Plains. Plains Anthropologist 18: 40-53.

Moss, John H. in collaboration with Kirk Bryan, G. William Holmes, Linton Satterthwaite Jr., Henry P. Hansen, C. Bertrand Schultz, W. D. Frankforter
1951 Early Man in the Eden Valley. University of Pennsylvania Museum, Museum Monographs No. 6. Philadelphia.

Mulloy, William T.
1954 The McKean Site in Northeastern Wyoming. Southwestern Journal of Anthropology 10: 432-60.

1958 A preliminary Historical Outline for the Northwestern Plains. University of Wyoming Publication, Volume 22, No. 1.

Sharrock, Floyd W.
1966 Prehistoric Occupation Patterns in Southwest Wyoming and Cultural Relationships with the Great Basin and Plains

Cultural Areas. University of Utah Anthropological Papers No. 77.

Wedel, Waldo R.
1954 Earthenware and Steatite Vessels from Northwestern Wyoming American Antiquity 19: 403-9.

Wedel, Waldo R., W. M. Husted, and J. H. Moss
1968 Mummy Cave: Prehistoric Record from Rocky Mountains of Wyoming. Science, Volume 160, pp. 184-6. Washington.